



Mid Ulster Council Workers on Strike

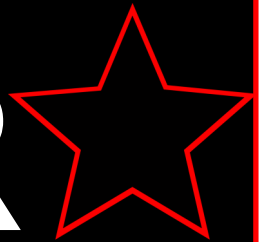


Posties to Launch Biggest Strike for Decent Pay Yet



Colombian Military Murder Union Member Sergio Lizcano

BLACK STAR



Communication Workers Fight Back



Telephone exchange workers on strike in Downpatrick during the recent UK-wide strike.

Against below inflation pay 'rise'.

Thousands of communications workers in Northern Ireland joined the first national strike across the industry since 1987. They stood alongside over 40,000 CWU (Communication Workers Union) members across the UK in solid strikes on the 29th July and the 1st of August.

The action followed overwhelming support for strike action across Openreach and BT among workers in opposition to the imposition of a below inflation pay 'offer'. The BT

Group CEO Philip Jansen saw fit to attempt to impose a £1,500 blanket pay 'increase' while he has 'earned' 3.5million quid for a years 'work'. In another gesture towards recognising the impact of rampant increases in the cost of living, he also presided over the opening of foodbanks in our workplaces!

The communications workers on strike were among those hailed as essential during the long months of repeated lock downs. They kept

homes connected and helped break isolation. This of course was also hugely profitable for the company. Last year alone profits stood at £1.3billion. £700billion of that went straight into the pockets of shareholders.

The strike has undoubtedly rocked the management of the BT Group but the fight is not over. Workers have shown the way forward. Lets remind Dave Ward that ads in newspapers, begging letters to MPs and pleading to the shareholders will not win this dispute. If anything, it shows the bosses and politicians that our Union leadership is weak and lacks the resolve of over 90% of CWU members who voted for and took strike action to win a decent pay rise from these profiteering bastards!

Now is not the time for us to beg. It is the time for further strike action.

As profiteering off the back of war and misery continues to push up the cost of living for the vast majority we must prepare to take action with workers in every industry. It's not just a pay rise - we have a world to win.

Meanwhile in Portrush...



Okay, it's kind of summer, so I've headed up the north coast to Portrush. No mass brawls this year outside the railway station, thankfully, and the Trufelli owners of Barry's are gone with the Currys of Galway ruling the roost and probably paying the same shite wages.

Talking of which, fair play to the local workers at Hampton Conservatories taking strike action here against a measly three per cent pay offer. Smash their windaes!! It's raining outside again, time for a pint!

Don't Mourn - Organise!



This is Sergio Lizcano, a thirty-eight year old Colombian miner and union member murdered by the army on 22 July in the California, Santander region of the country. A member of the Sintramienérgetica union, Sergio was shot dead by soldiers claiming to be in the district to suppress illegal mining, but in reality there as hired thugs in support of the Eco Oro Minerals Corporation. A wildcat strike by local miners protesting his murder led the local army units to temporarily withdraw from the area.

Sergio's death reveals the true nature of international capitalism. As the CNT Huesca, Spain commented 'Por mucho que nos reprima y golpee fuerte, sabemos que nuestra lucha es justa' - 'As much as they (the boss) represses us and hits us hard, we know that our fight is fair'. Let that fight continue!

Fanya Baron (1887 - 29 September 1921)



Fanya Anisimovna Baron (Russian: Фаня Анисимовна Барон) (1887 – September 29, 1921) was a Russian anarchist revolutionary who lived in the United States from 1911 to 1917.

With the outbreak of social revolution in Russia she returned to help the revolution. She became active in the Nabat Ukrainian Anarchist Federation build a post-revolutionary society. Arrested as part of a crackdown on Anarchist activists Fanya escaped from Ryazan prison in July 1921. She was later arrested by the Cheka while planning to

break her husband, also an Anarchist, Aaron Baron out of prison.

Shortly afterwards Fanya was executed by the Cheka on personal orders from Lenin. She was defamed by Trotsky who lied at the time "We do not imprison the real anarchists, but only criminals and bandits who cover themselves by claiming to be anarchists".

Victory to the Strikers!



Organise! stand in total solidarity with the mid Ulster council workers in their month long industrial action against the 'real terms' pay cut that Mid Ulster District Council expected them to meekly accept back in March.

The derisory offer of a pay cut (1.75%) resulted in a walkout back in March and strike action began in earnest on 25th of July and is set to last until 21st August. The Council was forced to admit that the 'vast majority of bins' would not be emptied for a month while leisure and other services have been shut down and disrupted.

It is of course completely within the power of the Council to resolve the issue and ensure that the disruption ends. They simply need to present the actual workers who provide these essential services with a real pay increase!

In Derry City and Strabane District Council month long industrial action by council workers was called off after what Union bosses referred to as 'a significantly improved offer'. Lets hope it is an offer that actually holds water as profiteering and the cost of living continue to soar.



Royal Mail Told To Get Real On Pay.

Over 115,000 Royal mail workers are set to take strike action in what will be the biggest single strike so far to demand a 'proper pay rise'!

Four days of strike action will take place on Friday 26th and Wednesday 31st of August, and Thursday 8th and Friday 9th of September. Royal Mail management have imposed a 2% 'pay rise' in response; in reality a pay cut that will see living standards plummet. Royal Mail bosses have raked in £758m in profit and shareholders have pocketed £400m, while workers are expected to accept a pay cut in the middle of the sharpest increases to the cost of living since 1982.

Organise!

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Get Involved: Help Build An Anarchist Alternative.



Organise! is an anarchist political group in Ireland who take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...



The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to:

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